During the return trip happy and instructive remarks were made upon the events and collections of the day by Mr. Morong, who acted as chairman, Judge Day, Mr. Canby, Dr. Beal, Mr. W. H. Seaman, Prof. Claypole, Dr. Britton, Dr. Arthur, Prof. Spalding, Mr. Jesup, Miss Steele, Mrs. Britton, Mrs. Wolcott, Mr. Fernow, Prof. Lazenby, Prof. Scribner, Dr. Allen and others of the botanical party, and several of the entomologists. The presence of the son and grandson of Dr. Torrey, although neither is a botanist, brought the name of the venerated botanist into stronger association with the place than anything had previously done. Altogether, the club has not had a more delightful and memorable excursion than the one to Sandy Hook.

The Torrey Club added to the pleasure of the visiting botanists by opening their comfortable library and herbarium room, and affording every facility for consulting books and specimens. It was a spot that had many charms, and was much visited. The generosity and forethought of the club toward their guests were also shown in the provision of a set of sixty-three species of the most interesting of the flowering plants of the vicinity, well mounted and labeled, which they were at liberty to take away with them, forming valuable souvenirs of the meeting.

The New York gathering will be remembered as a thoroughly delightful and profitable one.

Dispersion of seeds of Euphorbia marginata Pursh.—This beautiful species of spurge, which has within the last twelve years been first cultivated in this vicinity, under the common name of "Snow on the Mountain," or "Mountain of Snow," proves to be quite interesting as well as ornamental. It has escaped, and has gone a good distance from the flower beds and gardens, and has made itself at home in almost all parts of our country along the roadsides and near farm-houses. During September, 1886, I had a bouquet placed on my office table in which were several sprays of this species. While otherwise engaged I heard a sudden tick, as if some one had thrown a small gravel against the window-pane. This was repeated several times, and I stepped outside the room to look for the rascally urchin, but failed to find him. Afterward I discovered that the sound was caused by the sudden bursting of the seed-pods of the specimens of this plant which were in the bouquet. I kept this species under observation more or less constantly during the remainder of last season, and have learned the following facts about it:

The stiped ovary arises at first above the involucre, but as soon as the stipe is long enough to reach over the involucre it droops down over the outside, and thus remains inverted until the fruit is fully developed, which usually requires nearly one week. As the capsule begins to dry and the seeds to ripen it resumes the erect or vertical position. This last movement of near 180° is generally completed in less than one day. It is now ready to burst and scatter the seed. As it thus stands it consists

of a stipe near three-fourths of an inch long, on the top of which is a three-celled, obtusely triangular capsule. Each cell contains a pitted spherical seed, which is a little larger than that of white mustard. The covering of each seed consists of two equal halves, which unite and form a complete cell, except along the inner or central border. Here each half is joined to the neighboring cell in such a manner as to leave a deficiency, thus forming a central cavity which opens into each of the three cells. Passing up through this central cavity is the continuation of the stipe, which is triangular and membranaceous, and so shaped as to fill up the deficiencies where the two halves fail to unite, thus completing each of the three cells. It will thus be seen that the line of dehiscence is much shorter on the inner border of the cell than on the outer, and that the two valves do not touch one another at all at the central part of the inner line of dehiscence.

As the capsule ripens and the stipe assumes the erect position the green color gradually fades and the seams commence to separate. Suddenly all of the six valves contract upon themselves at the same time, thus completely detaching themselves and scattering the three seeds upward and outward. Quite a number of seeds were thrown on to a shelf which was ten inches higher than the top of the bouquet and nearly a foot away from it. The greatest distance which a seed was thrown was nine feet, measured by a line drawn direct from the flower to the spot where the seed struck the ground. The seed had traveled in an upward curve, and had probably made a journey of twelve feet. The sound which was produced at dehiscence was heard sixty-five feet away, in the open air, and nearly one hundred in a room. In looking over such botanical literature as I have at hand, I find that on page 20 of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE for 1880 Prof. W. C. White reports that E. E. White had observed a similar habit in *Euphorbia corollata* L., the report being loud enough to be heard across an ordinary room.

J. SCHNECK, *Mt. Carmel, Ill.*

The A. A. A. S. Botanical Club at New York.—The Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S. held its first meeting for this year Thursday, August 11, in the law building of Columbia College. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. M. S. Bebb, the Club was called to order by the secretary, Mrs. E. G. Britton, and Mr. Thomas Morong was elected chairman for the present meeting. About fifty were in attendance, and although the absence of some of the most active members was noted with regret, the Club went promptly to work with its accustomed vigor.

The first paper was read by Dr. W. J. Beal, on "The Root-stocks of Leersia and Muhlenbergia." This was followed by one on the "Dehiscence of the Sporangium of Adiantum pedatum," by Florence May Lyon, read in the author's absence by Prof. V. M. Spalding. Mrs. Britton then presented a list of plants of the vicinity of New York, collected by a committee of the Torrey Botanical Club, specimens of which were placed at the disposal of those present. The list includes a number that are of